

Spotlight On

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ron Duncan
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U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Ronald (Ron) Lee Duncan is the Communications Manager to the Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command.

Duncan provides communications support to the commander and his staff both on-station and when the commander travels. He coordinates communications support while the commander is traveling by using available communications equipment at their destination or by setting up communications equipment he must bring with him. Oftentimes, however, the commander travels to locations without an adequate communications infrastructure. "It's during those periods where he must be prepared to improvise and overcome that TSgt Duncan really earns his pay," said Air Force Maj Robert Uemura, Assistant Executive to the Commander.

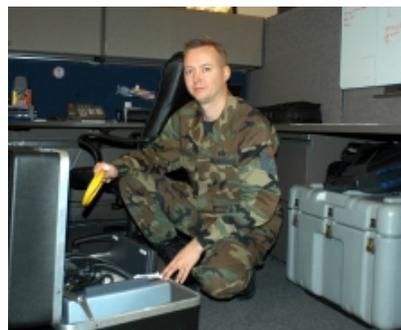
"My job supports homeland defense by ensuring the commander is able to access information in a timely manner, regardless of whether he is in his office at Peterson AFB, inside Cheyenne Mountain (Air Force Station), at home, or on an official trip anywhere in the world," Duncan said.

Duncan enjoys his job because "I get to experience a part of the military few people get a chance to". "In old war movies you sometimes see the soldier carrying a backpack radio walking behind their commander. We essentially do the same thing, but the radio has been replaced with computers and satellite phones. We don't follow him everywhere, but we are close by to ensure he quickly gets the information he needs."

Duncan joined the military in August 1985 because he was undecided on what to do after high school. "I thought about college but didn't want to go to school just to go to school so I decided to join the military. I thought it would afford me the opportunity to travel and see a variety of different jobs. From there I would be able to choose a career I would enjoy."

He arrived at the command in July 2002.

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TSgt. Ron Duncan checking the contents of a travel kit used to support the commander.
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